

studying are demonstrated in their remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

The national finals competition simulates a congressional hearing in which high school students testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges. Not only does this program encourage learning, but it also gives the students a chance to articulate what it is they have learned. In order to speak intelligently about any subject, it is important to be well-prepared, and these students have done just that. They have dedicated time and hard work, and have committed themselves to performing to their best abilities.

The preparation and dedication the students of Spearfish High School committed to the national final competition is to be commended. All of South Dakota is proud of their performance. They represented our state with tremendous poise and motivation. Their success is an example for other talented young people to emulate.

Again, congratulations to Spearfish High School for their outstanding performance in the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution."●

IN RECOGNITION OF BELINDA GUADARRAMA

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to share with the Senate the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Belinda Guadarrama, of Petaluma.

It is my great pleasure to honor the tremendous contributions Ms. Guadarrama has made to our economy. She has been recognized by the Small Business Administration as the California Small Business Person of the Year for 2002.

In 1986, Ms. Guadarrama started GC Micro with two employees, \$20,000 and some money from a retirement account. Through her hard work, diligence and business acumen, the firm is now one of the Nation's leading suppliers of computer hardware and software products to the defense and aerospace industries. Today the company employs 28 people and sales last year topped \$34 million.

Building GC Micro from the ground up was not easy. When Ms. Guadarrama applied for a \$5,000 loan for her company, a bank laughed at her lack of collateral. However, Ms. Guadarrama persevered.

Through hard work and a passion for customer service, Belinda overcame the perception that a minority woman couldn't make it in the competitive field of technology and marketing to defense-related contractors. She never gave up and her success is a testament to her determination.

Ms. Guadarrama has been a strong advocate for minority business development in America. In working with the National Association of Small Disadvantaged Businesses, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the His-

panic Business CEO Roundtable, she effectively brings the concerns of the minority business community to the attention of the media and policy makers.

Belinda's story has been an inspiration to many Latinas. Her enthusiasm and drive are evident to anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting her.

I send my warmest congratulations to Belinda on her recognition by the Small Business Administration as the Small Business Person of the Year for 2002, representing California.●

TRIBUTE TO THE ARKANSAS GUNSLINGERS NATIONAL GUARD UNIT

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Arkansas Army National Guard Task Force 2-153—or as they're more commonly known, the Arkansas Gunslingers.

The Gunslingers were mobilized on October 8, 2001. After a brief period of training in Fort Carson, Colorado, the 529-member unit was deployed to Sinai, Egypt, as the first pure National Guard unit in history to serve as part of a "Multinational Force and Observer" mission in this region. In this peace-keeping capacity, the Gunslingers task force is responsible for observing and reporting activity along the eastern side of the Sinai peninsula. This zone includes the desert mountains and coastal areas from Eilat, Israel, to the southern tip of the peninsula along the Gulf of Aqaba.

Time does not permit me to recognize by name each of the dedicated men and women of the Gunslingers Task Force, though they all deserve such recognition for the sacrifices they make in service to their country. However, I do want to take a moment to pay special tribute to Task Force Commander Lieutenant Colonel Steve Womack. When not serving with the Task Force, Steve also serves as mayor of the city of Rogers, Arkansas. His commitment to public service, both in uniform and as a civilian, sets an example for all of us, and he stands as a wonderful representative of the values that animate the entire Gunslingers unit. I am proud to recognize him and his fellow Guardsmen on the floor of this body today.

Today we face tremendous challenges in the world arena, as the threat of international terrorism has brought heightened tensions both at home and abroad. In such an uncertain time, it is reassuring to know that we have dedicated soldiers such as the Gunslingers to ensure a stable and peaceful international order. I ask that all my colleagues in the U.S. Senate join me in expressing our gratitude to the Gunslingers Task Force.●

RECOGNITION OF JAMES JOHNSON'S RETIREMENT

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of James Johnson

upon his retirement from DaimlerChrysler and as president of UAW Local 1183 in Newark, DE, after more than thirty-eight years of dedicated service. Known to friends and colleagues alike as "JJ," he is a man with a kind heart, diverse interests and great abilities. JJ embodies the best of Delaware, the UAW and the American worker.

JJ joined Chrysler as an assembler in 1964 and affiliated with UAW Local 1183. Over time, he began to work his way up through the leadership ranks of his local. By the 1980's, he had been elected a committeeman, and he served as a facilitator for the negotiation of the assembly plant's historic Modern Operating Agreement. His leadership ability apparent, he continued to climb the leadership ladder. Beginning in the early 1990's, his brothers and sisters of Local 1183 elected him as their vice-president three times, a post that he held for eight years. Then, in June of 2001, JJ assumed the post of president of his local, a leadership position that he has held until his retirement.

I have had the privilege of knowing JJ for more than two decades. We first worked together when I was Delaware's State treasurer in 1980 and negotiated the State's loan to Chrysler during the company's darkest hours. Right from the start, JJ impressed me as one who possessed the qualities of a leader. He was interested in doing what was right. He believed in doing things well. He followed the Golden Rule, treating others the way he wanted to be treated. He was adept at hammering out compromises, but when he knew he was right, he was loath to give up. Never boisterous or overbearing, JJ's quiet confidence helped to make him an effective advocate for his members and won the respect of Chrysler's management team at their Newark, DE assembly plant. I especially respected his willingness to share the credit when things went right, while assuming the blame when things went wrong.

JJ deserves a good deal of the credit for helping to foster the positive relationship between labor and management that is the hallmark of DaimlerChrysler's Newark assembly plant. The rapport he helped to establish has served to preserve the plant during an era when many other automotive plants were closed due to overcapacity. Under his leadership, an atmosphere of cooperation emerged to replace the atmosphere of confrontation that had earlier existed. Under his watchful eye, quality products were built and productivity was enhanced as labor and management learned to work together towards common goals.

JJ has been a respected colleague for over half of his life, and he remains a trusted friend to many. He takes pride in his work and has made thousands of autoworkers proud to work alongside him. I thank him for his friendship, congratulate him on a successful first career and wish him and his family only the very best in all that lies ahead for him and for them.●